

II. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus comprising:

- a compression sleeve element:

- adapted to at least partially surround a first portion of a first elongated member and a second portion of a larger elongated member, wherein a third portion of said first elongated member is nested in at least a fourth portion of said larger elongated member, and
 - having a first elongated member compression surface and a larger elongated member compression ~~surface~~, surface;

- a relative motion obstruction element adapted to prevent axial and rotational motion of said compression sleeve element relative to said larger elongated member, said relative motion obstruction element itself having at least one hole established in said larger elongated member and at least one projection projecting inwardly from said compression sleeve element and through said at least one hole; and

- ~~- wherein said third portion of said first elongated member has a first longitudinal axis and said at least a fourth portion of said larger elongated member has a second longitudinal axis,~~

- ~~a compression enhancement element~~ a levered clamp operable to generate a compressive force that retains said first elongated member in a desired fixed position relative to said larger elongated member, said levered clamp established so that, upon activation, it forces said said levered clamp forces:
 - said larger elongated member compression surface ~~towards~~ against said larger elongated ~~member, and member,~~
 - said first elongated member compression surface towards a site on said first elongated member that is not within said larger elongated member, and
 - said at least one projection against a surface of said at least one third portion of said first elongated member.

~~said compression apparatus further comprising:~~

- ~~— a relative motion obstruction element adapted to prevent only axial and rotational motion of said compression sleeve element relative to said larger elongated member,~~
- ~~— wherein said third portion of said first elongated member and said at least a fourth portion of said larger elongated member are substantially coaxial,~~
- ~~— wherein said at least a fourth portion of said larger elongated member is hollow,~~
- ~~— wherein said relative motion obstruction element comprises at least one projection and at least one recess,~~
- ~~— wherein said compression sleeve element is separated along at least one split from a first elongated member proximate edge of the compression sleeve element to a larger elongated member proximate edge of the compression sleeve element, and~~
- ~~— wherein said compression sleeve element is perpendicularly displaceable and perpendicularly removable, relative to said second longitudinal axis, from said~~

~~first elongated member and said larger elongated member upon deactivation of and effective disengagement of said compression enhancement element.~~

2. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said compression sleeve element is separated along at least one split from a first elongated member proximate edge of the compression sleeve element to a larger elongated member proximate edge of the compression sleeve element, wherein said third portion of said first elongated member has a first longitudinal axis, said at least a fourth portion of said larger elongated member has a second longitudinal axis wherein said compression sleeve element is perpendicularly displaceable and perpendicularly removable, relative to said second longitudinal axis, from said first elongated member and said larger elongated member upon deactivation of and effective disengagement of said levered clamp. ~~wherein said at least one split is parallel to said first longitudinal axis.~~

3. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in ~~claim 1~~ claim 2 wherein said at least one split is two splits.

4. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 3 wherein each of said two splits is parallel to said first longitudinal axis.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said ~~compression enhancement element~~ is a levered clamp ~~having an~~ has an eccentric cam.
9. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said compression sleeve element is shaped to provide a clearance from said larger elongated member between said first elongated member compression surface and said larger elongated member compression surface.
10. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said ~~compression enhancement element~~ levered clamp is at least partially integral with said compression sleeve element.
11. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said third portion of said first elongated member has an outer surface sized to fit substantially against an inner surface of said at least a fourth portion of said larger elongated member.
12. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said compression sleeve element is radially displaceable and radially removable.
13. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein each said first elongated member and said larger elongated member is hollow.
14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)
18. (canceled)
19. (withdrawn; currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 further comprising an annular gap filler.
20. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said larger elongated member compression surface and said first elongated member compression surface each directly contact one of said elongated members.
21. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 further comprising said elongated members.
22. (withdrawn; currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 further comprising a support apparatus of which said retention apparatus forms a part.
23. (withdrawn; currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention method comprising the steps of:
- establishing a compression sleeve element at least partially around a first portion of a first elongated member and a second portion of a larger elongated member; wherein a third portion of said first ~~substantially~~ elongated member nests within at least a fourth portion of said larger elongated member; then
 - effectively engaging a ~~compression enhancement element~~ lever clamp around a compression sleeve element such that it may be subsequently activated so as to force a larger elongated member compression surface towards said larger

elongated member and to force a first elongated member compression surface towards a site on said first elongated member that is not within said larger elongated member; then

- preventing ~~only axial~~ axial and rotational motion of said compression sleeve element relative to said larger elongated member by engaging at least one projection with at least one ~~recess of~~ hole in said larger elongated member a relative motion obstruction element; then
- adjusting said first elongated member to a desired position relative to said larger elongated member; then
- activating said ~~compression enhancement element to~~ lever clamp to:

- force said ~~force said~~ larger elongated member compression surface towards said larger elongated ~~member and to~~ member,

- force said ~~force said~~ first elongated member compression surface towards said site on said first elongated member that is not within said larger elongated ~~member, member, and~~

- force said at least one projection against a surface of said at least one third portion of said first elongated member, and

~~thereby retaining said first elongated member in said desired position~~ position
upon performing said step of activating said lever clamp.

~~;~~ then

~~-deactivating said compression enhancement element; then~~

~~-effectively disengaging said compression enhancement element; and then~~

~~-removing said compression sleeve element by displacing said compression sleeve element in a direction that is perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said fourth portion of said larger elongated element.~~

~~wherein said fourth portion of said larger elongated member is hollow.~~

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (withdrawn; currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention method as described in ~~claim 29~~ claim 23 wherein said step of effectively engaging a ~~clamp~~ lever clamp around said compression sleeve element comprises the step of effectively engaging a ~~clamp~~ lever clamp having an eccentric cam.

31. (withdrawn; currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention method as described in ~~claim 29~~ claim 23 wherein said step of effectively engaging a clamp around said compression sleeve element comprises the step of threading a bolt into a nut such that operation of said lever sufficiently retains said first elongated member in fixed position relative to said larger elongated member.

32. (canceled)

33. (canceled)

34. (canceled)

35. (canceled)

36. (canceled)

37. (canceled)

38. (canceled)

39. (canceled)

40. (canceled)

41. (canceled)

42. (newly added) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said levered clamp forces said first elongated member compression surface against a surface on said first elongated member that is not within said larger elongated member.